

## Letter from Thomas A. Watson to Alexander Graham Bell, May 26, 1900

1000—5—22, '00. FRANK O. WELLINGTON, Manager. Established 1884. THOMAS A. WATSON, Treasurer. Fore River Engine Company , STEEL SHIP AND MARINE ENGINE BUILDERS. BUILDERS OF U. S. Torpedo Boat Destroyers "Lawrence" and "Macdonough ." U. S. 3500- Ton Protected Cruiser "Des Moines ." U. S. Steam Light Vessel , NO. 72. Long Distance Telephone. T. A. W. Weymouth, Mass., U. S. A., May 26, 1900. Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, 1331 Connecticut Ave., Telephone history T. Washington, D. C. My dear Mr. Bell:

Your letter of the 24th inst. is at hand. I remember but one occasion when we had a band at Exeter Place and that was on the evening of one of your Providence lectures, under Mr. Gower's management. I think that was Reeves Band of Providence, led by Mr. Reeves himself, but it might have been Mr. Baldwin and his band. If this is the engagement to which Mr. Baldwin refers in his letter, then he must have been engaged by Mr. Gower, as all the arrangements for those lectures were made by him.

It is rather hard for me to imagine you making any such arrangement as Mr. Baldwin describes, in order to secure the services of a band gratuitously, but it might have been Mr. Gower who interviewed him and was mistaken by him for you. That would be a reasonable hypothesis. It is a strange range story and looks suspicious to say the least.

If Mr. Baldwin lives in this vicinity and you will write him to call and see me, I will investigate the matter and let you know what conclusion I arrive at. I will be perfectly just to him.

It is an interesting reminiscence of the old days and brings 2 forcibly to my mind how we have drifted apart. I have tried to see you several times when you were passing through

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Boston, but you were gone before I heard you were here. Do let me know the next time you are to be in this vicinity, so I can at least shake hands.

With kind regards to Mrs. Bell, I am Very cordially yours, Thomas A Watson